Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Hyoscyamine

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

## Brand Names: US

Anaspaz [DSC]; DermacinRx Digenyx; Ed-Spaz [DSC]; Hyosyne; Levbid; Levsin; Levsin/SL; NuLev; Oscimin

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to slow the speed in the stomach and GI (gastrointestinal) tract.
- It is used to treat infant belly pain.
- It is used to treat diarrhea.
- It is used to treat GI (gastrointestinal) ulcers.
- It is used to treat irritable bowel syndrome.
- It is used to treat muscle spasms of the GI (gastrointestinal) tract, gallbladder system, or urinary system.
- It is used to treat a runny nose.
- It is used to treat Parkinson's disease.
- It is used to prevent irritation of the pancreas.
- It is used during surgery.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have any of these health problems: Bowel block, bleeding problems, diarrhea, enlarged colon, glaucoma, heart problems, myasthenia gravis, slow-moving GI (gastrointestinal) tract, an esophagus that is not normal, ulcerative colitis, or trouble passing urine.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

## What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

### All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how this drug affects you.
- Talk with your doctor before you use alcohol, marijuana or other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your actions.
- Heat stroke has happened in people taking this drug. Be careful in hot weather and during physical activity.
- Good mouth care, sucking hard, sugar-free candy, or chewing sugar-free gum may help with dry mouth. See a dentist often.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.

- Different brands of this drug may be for use in different ages of children. Talk with the doctor before giving this drug to a child.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

### Extended-release tablets:

- You may see something that looks like the tablet in your stool. This is normal and not a cause for concern. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.

## What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Diarrhea.
- Feeling confused.
- Mood changes.
- Change in how you act.
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).
- Memory problems or loss.
- Trouble sleeping.

- Change in speech.
- Change in balance.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Trouble passing urine.
- Not sweating during activities or in warm temperatures.
- Fever.
- Flushing.
- Fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Not able to get or keep an erection.

## What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Blurred eyesight.
- Constipation.
- Dry mouth.
- Dry eyes.
- Headache.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Stomach pain.
- Change in taste.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Feeling full.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side

effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

## How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

### All oral products:

- Take 30 to 60 minutes before meals.
- Do not take antacids at the same time as this drug. Ask your doctor if you have a question about how to take antacids with this drug.

### All liquid products:

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

### Extended-release tablets:

- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.

### Oral-disintegrating tablet:

- Place on the tongue and let dissolve.
- Some tablets may also be chewed. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about how to take this drug.
- Do not swallow it whole.

### Under the tongue (sublingual) tablet:

- Place tablet under the tongue and let dissolve.
- Some tablets may also be chewed or swallowed whole. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about how to take this drug.

### Digenyx tablets:

- Swallow this drug whole.

### Injection:

- It is given as a shot into a muscle, vein, or into the fatty part of the skin.

## What do I do if I miss a dose?

### All oral products:

- If you take this drug on a regular basis, take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- Many times this drug is used on an as needed basis. Do not use more often than told by the doctor.

### Injection:

- Call your doctor to find out what to do.

## How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

### All oral products:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

### Injection:

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

### All products:

- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions,

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## Last Reviewed Date

2026-06-11

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

Hyoscyamine - Last updated on December 12, 2022
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